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## Ex-educator pleads guilty in sex case

By David Galante  
Democrat and Chronicle

A defense lawyer says he will request probation for Brother John D. Walsh, a former assistant principal at Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece who pleaded guilty yesterday to coercing two boys into his car for sexual acts.

"The man has never been involved with the law before," said lawyer G. Thomas White. "Whether it was a case of poor judgment, I don't know. But the fact is the man has a problem. When this happened he was under a great deal of pressure and depression."

White also said Walsh, 43, has been under psychiatric care since his arrest Aug. 28, 1985, and will continue treatment. Walsh remains free on \$7,500 bail.

Assistant Monroe County District Attorney Terrence Servis said Walsh has recently been hospitalized at a Catholic treatment center known as Servants of the Paraclete in Jemez Springs, N.M.

Walsh, a member of the Brothers of the Holy Cross, pleaded guilty yesterday to charges of first-degree coercion and first-degree unlawful imprisonment in connection with an incident involving two boys, then ages 11 and 12.

Walsh could be placed on probation or receive a maximum of seven years on the coercion conviction and a maximum of four years for being convicted of unlawful imprisonment, Servis said. Monroe County Court Judge Patricia D. Marks set sentencing for March 18.

Walsh was accused of coercing the two boys into his blue station wagon near Manhattan Square Park in downtown Rochester, driving on Interstate 490 through Brighton and Penfield, and offering them \$50 for a sexual act.

The boys originally told police that Walsh forced them into his car at gunpoint. But White said a gun was never used and the two boys later told prosecutors they were not threatened with a gun.

The two boys told police that Walsh eventually drove back to the city and released them near Village Gate Square on North Goodman Street. One of the boys memorized the license plate number on Walsh's car, ran to a nearby restaurant to jot it down and called his mother.

Walsh was arrested after police traced the license plate number.

Walsh was originally charged by Rochester police with second-degree kidnapping, but the case was never presented to a grand jury.

But in an agreement reached with prosecutors, Walsh pleaded guilty in exchange for the lesser charges, said Charles J. Siragusa, first assistant Monroe County district attorney.

No promise of sentencing has been made in exchange for the guilty plea, said White and Servis.

Siragusa said the offer of pleading guilty to lesser charges was made to Walsh after prosecutors evaluated the case and again interviewed the two boys.

"After evaluating the case we

determined it was more a case of coercion and unlawful imprisonment than one of kidnapping," Siragusa said.

According to New York state law, a person is guilty of second-degree kidnapping when he abducts someone. Unlawful imprisonment involves holding or re-

straining someone against his will. The crime of coercion involves instilling in a victim the fear of potential physical harm.

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